

Message from Superintendent Ritz

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Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz July 8, 2016

Last week, the State Board of Education unanimously approved the Growth to Proficiency Table. This was the final step needed to implement Indiana's new accountability model.

For the first time, individual student growth will be weighted equally with proficiency when calculating accountability. I believe this will more fairly reflect the learning that happens every day throughout our state. In addition, the Department will be hosting several webinars between May 10-25 so that schools can learn more about the growth model chart and how it will be incorporated into our accountability system. More information about webinars will be forthcoming.

In other action, The State Board of Education adopted the Indiana Academic Standards for Science 2016. The science standards were developed by committees comprised of educators, professors, and content experts from business and industry across the state of Indiana. These standards are a product of their hard work, public feedback, and revisions. Science standard resource documents can be found [Here](#)

As you know, today marks the start of the testing window for Part II of the ISTEP+. As Superintendent, I want to let you know that I am committed to ensure that testing goes as smoothly as possible for our students and educators. If you have issues or questions regarding Pearson's testing systems, you can reach them at 866-683-6668 or at Indiana_Helpdesk@support.pearson.com. In addition, you can contact the Department's Office of Student Assessment at 317-232-9050 and in assessments@doe.in.gov.

In other assessment news, the first phase of the IREAD-3 spring results will be released to Corporation Test Coordinators and School Test Coordinators on Pearson Access Next. Your Coordinators will be able to see passing status, as well as student scale performance and performance on standards.

Finally, as Indiana celebrates its bicentennial, I wanted to let you know about a partnership between the Department of Education and [Indiana's Supreme Court](#). This Wednesday, the Court will hear oral arguments for a case in the original home of Indiana's Supreme Court in Corydon, our first capitol. The Department has partnered with the Court to stream the arguments live throughout the state. You can find more information by visiting this [Link](#). Please share this information with any educators you know that may be



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interested.

Have a Great week!

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Superintendent of Public Instruction

ESSA Flexibility Waiver Related News

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) is working with State Educations Agencies, like the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), by advising them and listening to them as federal law transitions to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). As we continue to work through USED's rule promulgation of this new law, we will keep schools, teachers and administrators updated on any new finalized items. To follow the progress of this law, USED has provided the public with a WEB PAGE and an FAQ on this transition. We have included it below for you. Thank you and we look forward to working with our stakeholders as we go through this transition. USED ESSA WEB PAGE: [Click Here](#), ESSA FAQ from USED: [Click Here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Federal Relations Director Jeff Coyne at jcoyne@doe.in.gov.



Through the Hoosier Family of Readers initiative, students and their families across the state have unlimited access to reading material on [myON](#).

NEW - Hoosier Family of Readers (HFR) has it's revised goal to read to over 1,000,000 books. As of April 12, 2016, HFR announced that there has been over 500,000 books read!

You can learn more about the [Bicentennial Book Challenge](#) on our [website](#). Superintendent Ritz has challenged students in classrooms across the state to read 200 books this school year. Make sure to share your progress with us!

Kathy Nimmer Wins 2016 Chasing Rainbows Award, Each year, [NNSTOY](#) in partnership with Dolly Parton on the Chasing Rainbows Award, which Dolly gives personally to a teacher who has overcome adversity in becoming a teacher. NNSTOY announced that this year's winner is Kathy Nimmer, an English Teacher at Harrison High School in West Lafayette, Indiana

IDOE Memoranda

NEW - McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grant, Public and charter schools, please be advised that McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Grant cycle will be open starting April 15, 2016. Please see [attached memo](#) for further details. Please contact Julie Smart, McKinney-Vento State Coordinator, with questions: jsmart@doe.in.gov

NEW - The School Health Report and the National School Nurse Data Report are now open and ready for submission. Each school accredited by the Department is required to complete this report. For further instructions and the link to the School Health Report, please click [here](#). This report collects chronic disease information and health staffing data for our state. A link to this report can be found [here](#). These reports will remain open until June 15, 2016. If you have questions about either of these reports, please contact Jolene Bracale at jbracale@doe.in.gov.

NEW - The Indiana Teacher of the Year Program (INTOY) is excited to announce the 2017 Teacher of the Year Application. Applications are due **July 11, 2016**. Please review the [INTOY Application Packet](#) and the [INTOY Program](#) documents for further information. The application will also be available on our Indiana Teacher of the Year website <http://www.doe.in.gov/toy>. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Teacher of the Year Coordinator, Caitlin Beatson, at cbeatson@doe.in.gov.

Congratulatory Letter for 2016 Honors Diploma Recipients, the congratulatory letter from Superintendent Ritz for 2016 honors diploma recipients is now available. Schools may print these letters for their students who graduate with honors this year. Congratulatory letters can be accessed [HERE](#)

- To access this URL, you will need your school's corporation number and User ID.
- To obtain your school's corporation number and User ID, you will need to contact your school's Superintendent's Office.
- Please note that letters are available only for honors diplomas and will not be sent to schools.

Finally, the online ordering for 2016 diploma seals closed on Friday, March 25th. Questions regarding the honors letter can be directed to Amanda Culhan, aculhan@doe.in.gov. Questions regarding diploma seals can be sent to Audra Hacker, ahacker@doe.in.gov

New Food Service Director Training (FSD 101), The Indiana Department of Education invites new School Food Service Directors to learn more about USDA's Child Nutrition Programs. The IDOE is interested in building a strong relationship with new Food Service Directors in order to promote successful school food service operations. The IDOE is interested in building a strong relationship with new Food Service Directors in order to promote successful school food service operations. This one day orientation will be held, July 26, 2016, Zionsville Community Schools, Educational Services Center. Click [here](#) to register. Click [here](#) for an agenda.

Dual Language Immersion Pilot Program Grant is now available. Applications are due by 4:00pm on May 13, 2016. Priority consideration in the FY 2016-2017 application process will be given to the FY 2015-2016 grant winning schools in good standing. Please direct questions to Jill Woerner at jwoerner@doe.in.gov or 317-234-5705.

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Professional Development

NEW - AP Summer Institute at the Indiana Academy - The Indiana Academy will be hosting an AP Summer Institute on the campus of Ball State University July 11th-14th and July 18th-21st. The workshops are subject-specific and provide teachers with support and training needed to teach AP courses. For more information visit: www.bsu.edu/academy/summer

Indiana School Health conference, June 14th and 15th in Indianapolis for the annual Indiana School Health conference brought to you by the Indiana School Health Network and Covering Kids and Families of Indiana. [Register now](#) Visit www.inschoolhealth.org for the latest information

Professional Standards, Under the new USDA Professional Standard rule, when hiring a new Food Service Director, schools implementing the school nutrition programs must ensure the new hire meets certain professional standards. Check out pages 11-12 in the [Guide to Professional Standards of School Nutrition Programs](#). All food service staff must meet professional standard hours set by USDA each school year, July 1-June 30. This applies to directors, managers, and program staff (part-time and full-time), and specific hours must be met for each category. For more information, click [here](#) for the USDA Q&A; click [here](#). For questions or concerns, please contact Sarah Kenworthy at skenworthy@doe.in.gov or 317-232-0857.

Orientation to School Nutrition Management, (5-day training) Is an overview of the management components of school nutrition programs. The target audience includes school nutrition program staff with fewer than 5 years' experience as a director or those who may aspire to be a director, as well as state agency staff, specialists, and trainers. Visit DOE's Training webpage [here](#) and scroll down to Orientation to School Nutrition Management to [register](#).

Indiana State Library's INSPIRE Digital Literacy Resource, [INSPIRE](#) has licensed TeachingBooks.net - a service that enhances your literacy work with instructional and primary source materials about the books and authors your students are reading. To learn more register for INSPIRE Webinars covering a variety of topics including Indiana reading lists, cross curricular resources and more. Details [HERE](#) or email accounts@TeachingBooks.net or call [\(800\) 596-0710](tel:(800)596-0710)

Indiana State Fair Field Trips are an opportunity for Classroom and Home Educators to enhance classroom curriculum by utilizing an educational experience that cannot be accomplished in the classroom setting. Field trips require [pre-registration](#) and 15 or more students of the appropriate grade level of the selected field trip.

Indiana Education Service Centers offer a variety of professional development opportunities. To learn more about professional learning opportunities in your area, visit the website of an Education Service Center in your area.

- [Region 8 Education Service Center](#)
- [Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Northwest Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Southern Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [East Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [West Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Wabash Valley Education Service Center](#)
- [Wilson Education Center ESC Region 2](#)

Legislative & Policy Updates

For updates, check out our [Facebook](#) page and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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Information from Other Agencies

NEW - Indiana Supreme Court to celebrate bicentennial in Corydon with oral argument in original courtroom. (May 5, 1817) The Indiana Department of Education is encouraging classrooms across the state to participate through an archived webcast of the argument which is available April 22. Attorneys and judges are invited to visit a school in their community as part of the celebration to talk about the judicial branch. Educators and speakers will have access to case briefs and other resources at courts.in.gov/corydon that provide teaching points for speaking to students. ([press release](#))

The United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs and National Institute of Justice recently announced that they are seeking applications for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative. Local schools are allowed to apply and you can find more information here (<http://nij.gov/funding/Documents/solicitations/NIJ-2016-9093.pdf>). The deadline to apply is May 27, 2016.

Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites offer free field trips to all K-12 Indiana school groups. Field trips are critical to a well-rounded education and provide a lifetime of memories. USA Funds has pledged another \$10,000 this year for a matching gift challenge. To learn more about how to donate and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, please visit: www.IndianaMuseum.org

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Indiana Department of Education
Imagining the possibilities. Making them happen.



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